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BEDWAS AND MACHEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Reports

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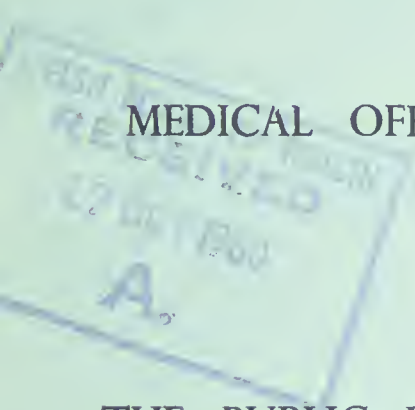
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959.



BEDWAS AND MACHEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1960-61

Councillor H. O. Curtis, J.P., Chairman.
Councillor A. J. James, Vice-Chairman.

MEMBERS.

Councillor	Mrs. S. J. Graham	Councillor	G. Phillips
"	A. E. Gameson	"	F. C. Dudden
"	H. Gibbon	"	F. Phipps
"	H. Ludlow	"	L. Vaughan
"	S. G. Lewis	"	C. Williams
"	G. Beeston, B.E.M., J.P.	"	E. V. Matthews
"	A. Walley	"	W. H. Perrin



OFFICERS.

Clerk of the Council	.....	.....	.....	W. EWART MORGAN
Medical Officer of Health	.....	.....	.....	K. P. Giles, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Engineer and Surveyor	.....	.....	.....	R. RUTTLEY
Chief Financial Officer	.....	.....	.....	R. HUMPHREYS, A.C.I.S.
Public Health Inspector.....	.....	.....	.....	H. R. SULWAY, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	.....	.....	.....	I. JONES, M.A.P.H.I.
Bankers	.....	.....	.....	Co-operative Wholesale Society

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS.

JULY, 1960.

To :-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending the
31st December, 1959.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT

Approximate area of the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,200 acres
Population (Census 1951)	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,712
Estimated Population (Mid-year 1959)	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,860
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	£67,920
Rate in £ levied 1959-60	.....	.....	.....	.....	£1 10 0d.
Product of Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	£251

VARIATION IN POPULATION FIGURES.

Year							
1951	Census Figures	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,712
1956	Estimated Mid-year R.G. figures	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,650
1957	"	"	"	"	.....	.....	9,710
1958	"	"	"	"	.....	.....	9,800
1959	"	"	"	"	.....	.....	9,860

Once again the above table shows a gradual increase in population.

BIRTH RATE.

LIVE BIRTHS.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	114	92	206
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Total ....	.....	.....	.....	115	93	208

Comparable Birth-Rates per thousand Population.

Bedwas and Machen U.D.	.....	.....	.....	.....	21.09
County of Monmouth	.....	.....	.....	.....	16.85
England and Wales	.....	.....	.....	.....	16.50

STILL BIRTHS

Total number of still births 2 males 5 females

Still Birth rates per thousand population

Bedwas and Machen	....	....	....	....	0.71
County of Monmouth	....	....	....	....	0.54

INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Total deaths numbered 3, 1 male and 2 females all under 1 week of age.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS

Bedwas and Machen U.D.	.....	.....	.....	..	14.4
County of Monmouth	.....	.....	.....	.....	27.2
England and Wales	...	.....	.....	.....	22.0

MATERNAL DEATH RATE

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	Nil
Deaths from other puerperal causes.....	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate for the County of Monmouth	
Per thousand Live and Still Births	0.52

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	0	2
Cancer (Stomach)	1	1	2
Cancer (Lung)	2	0	2
Cancer (Breast)	0	0	0
Cancer (Other Sites)	8	8	16
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	3	10
Coronary Disease, angina	9	2	11
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	2
Other circulatory disease	5	5	10
Other heart disease	4	1	5
Influenza	0	2	2
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	0	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Congenital malformations	0	1	1
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	2	8	10
Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Total ..	54	38	92

DEATH RATE PER THOUSAND OF THE POPULATION

Bedwas and Machen U. D.	9.33
County of Monmouth	11.75
England and Wales ...	11.6

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications received during the year :-

Nature of disease	Number of cases
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	23
Measles	94
Erysipelas	2
Pneumonia	1
Dysentery	28
Poliomyelitis	2
Food Poisoning	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	16
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	3
Total	176

The cases of food poisoning occurred in the Trethomas Ward and the persons affected were a father and son of the same family.

The suspected food consumed by these persons were sausages, and the un-consumed sausages had been given to their dog. The food had been purchased from a vehicle from which butchers meat is sold by a person outside the Urban area. The Health Authority of the area from which the vehicle comes were acquainted with the facts of the alleged sausages but no further cases were reported and a satisfactory report was received of the premises etc., used by the butcher, from the Public Health Inspector.

The outbreak of dysentery was of the Sonne type and close contact was kept with the cases giving advice and disinfectants to the persons concerned.

WARD INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES Excluding Tuberculosis

WARD	Scar- let Fever	Wh'p'g Cough	Meas- les	Erysip- alis	Pneu- monia	Polio- mye- litis	Dysen- tery	Food pois- oning
Maescwmmmer	0	7	21	0	1	0	0	0
Bedwas	4	6	26	2	0	2	20	0
Trethomas	0	9	7	0	0	0	2	2
Machen	1	1	40	0	0	0	6	0
TOTAL	5	23	94	2	1	2	28	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Number of new cases reported during the year :-

Pulmonary 16	Non-Pulmonary 3	Total 19
-----------------	--------------------	-------------

Age groups of cases notified and mortality during the year.

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES		MORTALITY	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 to 1 year	0	1	0	0
1 to 5 years	2	1	0	0
5 to 10 years	1	2	0	0
10 to 15 years	0	4	0	0
15 to 20 years	0	0	0	0
20 to 25 years	0	0	0	0
25 to 35 years	2	0	0	0
35 to 45 years	2	1	0	0
45 to 55 years	0	0	1	0
55 years and over	3	0	1	0
TOTAL	10	9	2	0

WARD INCIDENCE OF CASES NOTIFIED

WARD	CASES NOTIFIED		DEATHS	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Maesycwmmmer	0	1	1	0
Bedwas	3	4	0	0
Trethomas	7	4	1	0
Machen	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	9	2	0

HOUSING.

The temporary halt in the building of Council owned houses is over and it is hoped that more houses will be made available for the applicants for houses on the waiting list.

The statistics relating to the provision of new houses during the year are :-

	Temporary	Permanent
Number of separate dwellings owned by the local authority	50	978

Total number of new separate dwellings completed during the year

(a) by the local authority	32
(b) by private enterprise	13
	45

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF COUNCIL-OWNED HOUSES

WARD						NUMBER OF HOUSES
Maesycwmmer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	151
Bedwas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	362
Trethomas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	333
Machen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	182
Total						<u>1,028</u>

HOUSING ACT, 1949, as amended by
THE HOUSING REPAIRS and RENTS ACT, 1954.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of Grants made during 1959	.....	.....	.....	8
Amount of Grants made during 1959	.....	.....	.....	£1,428
Total Number of Grants 1949 to 1959	.....	.....	.....	46
Total Amount of Grants 1949 to 1959	.....	.....	.....	£8,802

IMPROVEMENT LOANS.

Loans made during 1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Total number of Loans 1949 to 1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Amount of Loans 1949 to 1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	£1,711

I am,

Your obedient servant,

K. P. GILES,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS.

To :-

July, 1960

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending on the
31st December, 1959.

NOTICES SERVED

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sections 92 and 93)
(Abatement of Nuisances : Repairs to Properties)

Intimation Notices	.....	.....	.....	92
Abatement Notices	.....	.....	.....	12
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 269)
(Nuisance arising from Moveable Dwellings on Unlicensed sites)

Intimation Notices				4
--------------------	-------	-------	-------	---
3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Dirty Premises)

Intimation Notice				1
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4. FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Intimation Notice				3
-------------------	-------	-------	-------	---

HOUSING.

The proposed building programme now being once more resumed will do much to alleviate the position with regard to the carrying out of your "Slum Clearance" programme and take a number of the applicants for Council-owned houses off the waiting list.

Owner-occupiers of houses still continue to take advantage of Improvement Grants to modernise some old properties, but the owners of tenanted houses do not seem to realize the benefits which can be obtained by availing themselves of the grants. There are a great number of houses which are tenanted and could be brought up to a standard of amenities comparable with a Council-owned house, if the owners of the properties would take advantage of the Improvement Grants.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE.

A. Houses Demolished.

IN CLEARANCE AREAS				Houses Demolished
(1)	Houses unfit for habitation	.....	.....	NIL
(2)	Houses included (bad arrangement)	.....	.....	NIL
(3)	Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	.....	.....	NIL
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS				
(4)	as a result of formal or informal action under Section 17 (1) H.A. 1957	.....	.....	3

B. Unfit Houses Closed

(8)	Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1), and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957	.....	.....	1
(9)	Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	.....	.....	NIL
(10)	Parts of buildings closed	.....	.....	NIL

C. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied.

		By Owner	By L.A.
(11)	After informal action by L.A.	62	NIL
(12)	After formal notice under P.H.A. Under Secs. 9 and 16 H.A. 1957	2 NIL	NIL NIL

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :

	No. of Houses
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation	
(a) under Section 48	NIL
(b) under Section 17 (2)	2
(c) under Section 46	NIL

E. Purchase of Houses by agreement	NIL
---	-----

RENT ACT, 1957.

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	1
Number of Applications refused	NIL
Certificates of Disrepair issued	1
Undertakings from Landlords	NIL
Applications for cancellations	NIL

COUNCIL HOUSES

The routine inspections of Council Houses were carried out on the cessation of old tenancies and on the exchange of tenancies of Council Houses.

Visits were also made to ensure that some of the tenants maintained a reasonable state of cleanliness in the houses.

Number of visits made for the above-mentioned purposes totalled 58.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The usual disinfectants were issued to the persons where necessary and especially so where cases of dysentery were notified.

The two cases of food-poisoning were thoroughly investigated but no success obtained in the isolation of the suspected food alleged to have been the cause.

Unfortunately the suspected food was thrown to the dog after being partly consumed, and if this had been kept, it would have been of great assistance in establishing the vehicle of infection or otherwise and in many of the enquiries of suspected food poisoning people have disposed of some food or other which tasted or smelled badly, in a similar manner, instead of keeping unconsumed portions for bacteriological examination.

I have always stressed the importance of this in all cases I have investigated.

WATER SUPPLY

The Council is a constituent member of the Rhymney Valley Water Board. The supply is ample and of good quality, but during the dry period experienced in the summer months of this year, pressure of water in the mains had to be reduced and some of the houses situated in the southern part of the district experienced some difficulty in having a continuous supply, especially during the day-time, when the demand for water was at its peak.

Routine sampling of the water supply is continually carried out by the Water Board officials to ensure a safe and uncontaminated supply throughout the area.

SWIMMING POOL.

One privately owned swimming pool is still in existence in the area and has suffered considerable damage from acts of wanton destruction by persons during the winter months, when the pool is closed.

Much of this damage has been, or is being, repaired, and the pool water is continuously sampled and found to be of a very good standard for bathing purposes.

The acts of vandalism experience in connection with the swimming pool is greatly to be deplored and praise is due to the people concerned in their endeavours to retain this desirable amenity in the area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Rhymney is still accepting the effluents of coal washeries, etc., prior to its course through the Bedwas and Machen district and the suspended particles from these effluents are polluting the water and are thus detracting from the beauty afforded by a river of comparatively clean-looking water.

In the Bedwas and Machen area, one stream conveying the effluent of the nearby industries is responsible for most of the pollution of the river within its boundaries.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Apart from the smoke from domestic chimneys, the only contributory factors to atmospheric pollution throughout the area are the Bedwas Colliery and the British Benzol Coal Distillation Plant.

The National Coal Board plans to substitute electrical power for steam and this will almost entirely abate any smoke nuisance caused by the raising of steam.

The British Benzol Coal Distillation Company have carried out much work in order to minimise or obviate any nuisance from dust, etc., but the system of coke quenching still being in use, causes gritty particles to be given off and so to cause some pollution of the atmosphere. The company are always ready to co-operate and do any reasonable and practicable work to prevent, if possible, any nuisance from the industry.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Weekly collections of domestic refuse is maintained throughout the district and subsidiary collections are made from business premises.

The Council have decided on a policy to provide proper refuse bins to householders throughout the area and this will facilitate the refuse collection and be more hygienic. At the moment, all kinds of receptacles are used by householders in which to deposit refuse for collection and in a great majority of cases, no covers are placed on these refuse receptacles.

Convenient tipping sites for the disposal of refuse are, unfortunately, not available in the area, to carry out a system of controlled tipping and for the present, the refuse is tipped on a refuse tip.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

FOOD SHOPS.

The trend of shopkeepers in the area is to stock for sale to the public, almost every kind of foodstuffs obtainable and under these circumstances it is extremely difficult to place a particular premises in a definite category for the sale of the various kinds of food sold. A large proportion of what are termed 'General' now supply frozen packs of meat, fish and vegetables, so that a general line of demarcation with respect to the character of the shop cannot be drawn conclusively.

The food shops in the area fall broadly into two categories :

- (a) those shops employing a manager and assistants.
- (b) Those shops which are kept by people and run by members of their families.

Shops in Category (a) number	.....	.....	.	8
Shops in Category (b) Number	.....	.....	.....	31
Cafes	.....	.....	.....	4
Fish Frying premises	.....	.....	.....	3

Number of Food Shops registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

For the manufacture of sausages and cooked meats	.....	3
For the sale of Ice-Cream	.....	22
For the Manufacture of Ice-Cream	.....	1

Routine inspections of all food premises are regularly maintained and the importance of the fundamental principles of hygiene is stressed on all food handlers whilst engaged in their work.

The foodstuffs surrendered and condemned during the year included the following :-

(a) CANNED FOODS

	Cans
Various fruits	112
Meats and vegetables	64
Fish and pastes	22
Soups	31

(B) OTHER FOODS

52 lbs. bacon ; 8lbs. of brawn ; 6lbs. sausages ;

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Preliminary notice was served in one case only for the provision of facilities for washing of hands in a vehicle from which open foods were retailed. This notice was complied with and no Formal action was necessary.

MILK SUPPLY.

Licences issued for sale of designated milks :

1. Dealer's Licences (Pasteurised Milk)	.....	3
2. Dealer's Licences (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	.....	1
3. Dealer's Licences (Sterilised Milk)	.....	3
4. Supplementary Licences for sale of milk by retailers from outside the area.	.....	2

ICE CREAM.

Ice-cream is now sold in almost all the shops in the area retailing other foodstuffs and is retailed pre-packed by the various reputable wholesale firms engaged in this industry. All the premises registered comply with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

BAKEHOUSES.

Inspections were made of the two bakehouses now operating in the district and the periodic cleansing and whitewashing was carried out during the year.

Routine inspections of Licensed Premises, Factory and School canteens and Cafes to ensure the compliance of the occupiers with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The number of visits made for the above purpose included the following :-

School Canteens	.....	12
Licenses Premises	.....	18
Factory Canteens	.....	6

MEAT INSPECTION.

A one hundred per cent inspection was again carried out of all animals slaughtered in the four privately owned establishments in the area.

The Additional Public Health Inspector is still employed full time in the largest of the slaughter houses owned and controlled by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the inspections at the remaining three smaller premises are carried out by your Public Health Inspector.

A considerable proportion of the meat from the establishments in the area is distributed and consumed in surrounding districts and this is especially so from the Co-operative Society Abattoir who supply their retail shops almost throughout South Wales.

The following are the statistics relating to the slaughtering of animals and the inspection of the meat during the year:-

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.

	Cattle (Excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Number killed	3,174	27	102	8,062	30,275
Number inspected	3, 174	27	102	8,062	30,275

Carcases and Offal Condemned in Whole or Part.

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTERCERCOSIS

	Cattle (Excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Whole carcasses condemned	2	Nil	Nil	33	12
Carcases of which part or organ condemned	1,521	3	Nil	415	1,321
Percentage affected with disease	47.9	11.1	0	5.6	4.4

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcases of which part or organ condemned	.....	140	4	Nil	632	Nil
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis		4.4	14.9	Nil	7.8	Nil

CYSTERCERCOSIS

One carcase of beef was generalised cystercircus and was condemned.

Twenty-one carcasses were found affected and submitted to refrigeration treatment.

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFECTATION.

The area is patrolled regularly by your Rodent Operator to keep down the rat and mice population.

River banks and streams etc., are regularly inspected and treated where evidence of rat infestation is found, or reported.

The refuse tips are subjected to twice weekly inspections.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the year with satisfactory results.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Inspections of factories and workplaces were carried out during the year and on the whole, conditions in these premises and workplaces were satisfactory.

Appended to this report are reports of the Prevention of Damage By Pests Act, 1949, and the Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Once again I wish to thank my colleagues in the office for the provision of some of the data for this report.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,

Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX. (1).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

REPORT FOR 9 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1959.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL				
	(1) Local Auth'y	(2) Dwe'ing Houses	(3) All other Premises	(4) Total of 1.,2.,3,	(5) Agricult- ural
1. No. of properties in Local Authority District	8	2,840	251	3,099	44
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of :-					
(a) Notification	Nil	15	2	17	Nil
(b) Survey under the Act	8	1,080	176	1,264	34
(c) Otherwise	4	18	2	24	Nil
3. Total inspections carried out	18	613	28	659	2
4. No. of properties found to be infested by :-					
(a) Rats					
Major	1	Nil	1	2	Nil
Minor	3	103	6	112	6
(b) Mice					
Major	Nil	3	Nil	3	Nil
Minor	Nil	28	Nil	28	Nil
5. No. of properties treated by the L.A.	4	134	Nil	138	Nil
6. Total treatments carried out	7	158	Nil	165	3

No action was necessary under Section 4 of the Act and no 'Block Control' schemes were carried out.

APPENDIX (2)

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspect-ions	Written notices
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	12	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	4	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	4	6	1
Total	13	22	3

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found					Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Insp'or	By H.M. Inspe'or		
Want of cleanliness (S.1).	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)						
(a) Insufficient	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Total	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	

There are no Out-workers in the area.

